

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, NAC, XA

SUBJECT: NATO EXPERTS REPORT ON AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

REF: (A) USNATO 2728; (B) USNATO A-54

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS
CONTAINED REFTEL WITH FOLLOWING REVISION OF THIRD TICK:

-- DELETE "CONTINUING PRESENT LEVELS OF" AND SUBSTITUTE
"INCREASING"

2. FOLLOWING ARE UPDATED TALKING POINTS ON HORN OF
AFRICA AND RHODESIA:

A) HORN OF AFRICA

-- ALTHOUGH THE OGADEN CONFLICT APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED
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WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE BADLY MAULED SOMALI ARMY
FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY, WE REMAIN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUED CONFLICT IN THE HORN.
WHILE THE SOMALI BORDER HAS NOT BEEN CROSSED, SOME ETHNIC
SOMALI IRREGULARS REMAIN IN THE OGADEN AND THE DANGER
REMAINS OF A POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN INVASION. ETHIOPIA NOW

APPEARS PREPARING TO STEP UP EFFORTS TO MILITARILY CRUSH THE ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS AND TO PRESSURE DJIBOUTI TO ADOPT POLICIES FAVORABLE TO THE EPMG.

-- WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE USSR THAT WE EXPECT AN EARLY AND SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET/CUBAN FORCES AND HAVE SENT SPECIAL EMMISARY RICHARD MOOSE TO MOGADISCIO FOR A COMPREHENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT SIAD. WE ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND SOME LIMITED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA. WE HAVE A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM IN KENYA CONSIDERING KENYA'S NEED FOR ADDITIONAL US ARMS BEYOND THE 12 F-5E'S SOLD THEM IN 1976 AND ABOUT TO BE DELIVERED.

B) RHODESIA:

-- IN RELATION TO RHODESIA, THE USG VIEWS THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS GROSSLY INADEQUATE. HOWEVER, IT DOES CONTAIN SOME ELEMENTS (E.G., UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE) CONGRUENT WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. CONDEMNATION OF IT WOULD SERVE TO PUSH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE FURTHER INTO SMITH'S CORNER. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS OFFER THE BEST HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL-PARTIES MEETING. THE FRONT LINE GENERALLY SUPPORTS THIS IDEA, BUT THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL NATIONALISTS AS WELL AS SMITH HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE. RHODESIA WILL, OF COURSE, BE A PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WHEN THE PRESIDENT VISITS NIGERIA.

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